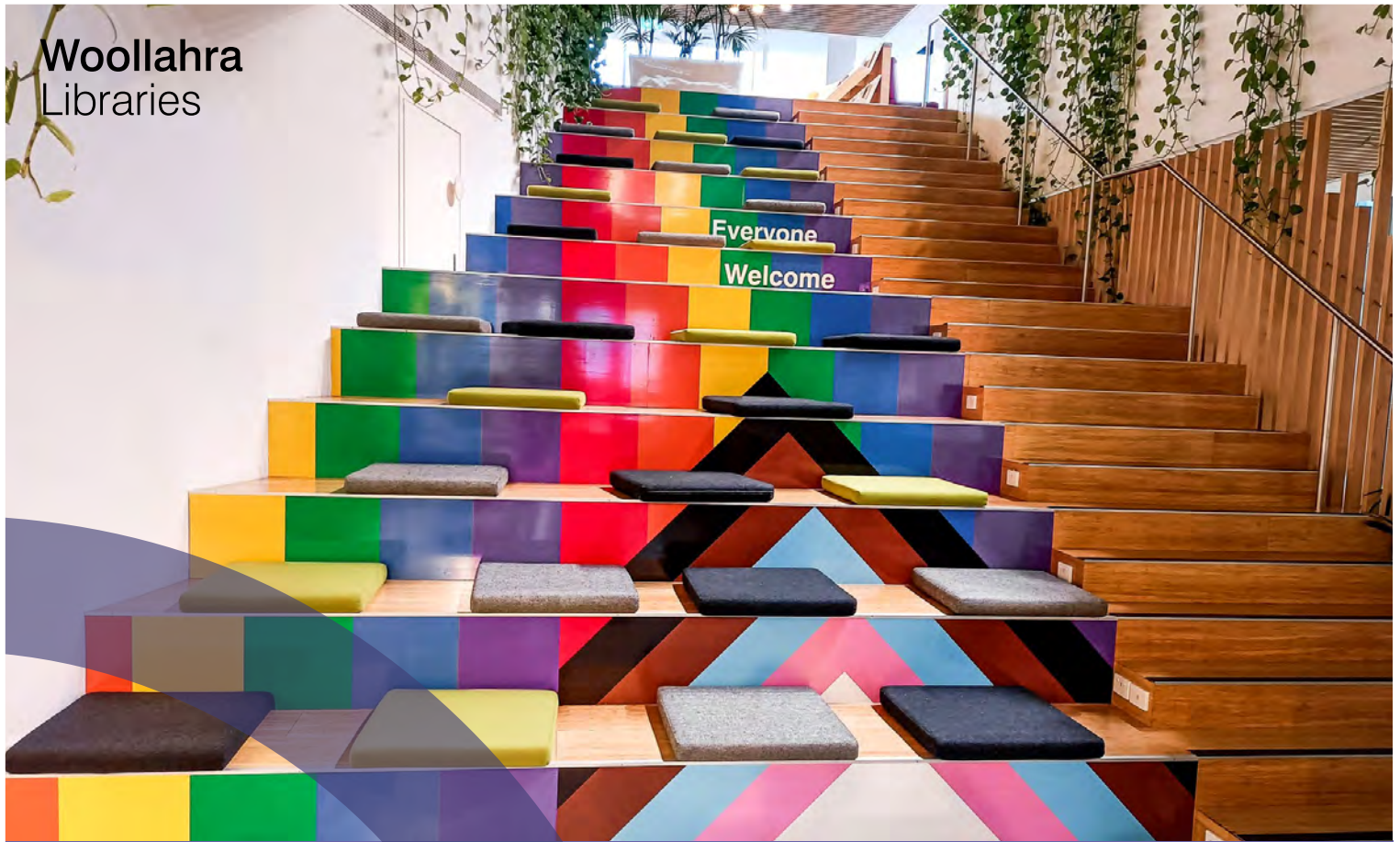


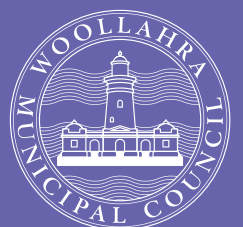
Woollahra
Libraries



Woollahra Libraries Annual Report

1 July 2022 – 30 June 2023

woollahra.nsw.gov.au/library





Woollahra Libraries staff and Director of Community and Customer Experience Patricia Ocelli at the unveiling of a plaque for Sir Mungo MacCallum

Cover image: Stairs at Woollahra Library at Double Bay, featuring artwork for Sydney WorldPride 2023

Introduction

Welcome to the Woollahra Libraries 2022-2023 Annual Report.

This financial year was one of opportunity for the library. For the first time since 2019, we were not directly affected by Covid-19 lockdowns and could get back to delivering library services that meet our communities evolving needs without any restrictions.

We undertook a massive technology upgrade to help foster digital literacy and innovation, which included updating all public PCs across our three libraries, and purchasing a new 3d printer and our first 3d scanner to run more specialised maker workshops. We upgraded to the Library Management system to a cloud based environment which improved the community's ability to manage their library accounts and enhanced the search functionality of our catalogue. We also added a

new collection of children's STEM kits to encourage connectedness, collaboration, agile learning and engagement with emerging digital technologies.

We were excited to get our library outreach truck, the Spark Truck back out on the road! It was great to see it pop up at a number of locations across the LGA and feature at an event with Randwick and Waverley councils in Centennial Park. With Covid-19 restrictions lifted, we were also able to take part in more widespread programming this year, from our flagship initiatives at Sydney WorldPride to co-hosting events for the Sydney Fringe Festival, Sydney Writers Festival and the BAD Sydney Crime Writers Festival, and facilitating events for Woollahra Council's Bellevue Hill 2023 celebrations!

While Woollahra Libraries are still working towards our "pre-Covid" statistics seen in 2019, our visitation, loans, and events figures are growing helped along by incredible new services – like Kanopy Film Streaming, and new program delivery areas – like a code club for young people.

With the groundwork we have set across collections, technology and events, we are more prepared than ever for success in the 2023-2024 year ahead.

Jody Rodas
Manager Woollahra Libraries

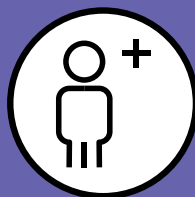
Quick Statistics

1 July
2022 –
30 June
2023



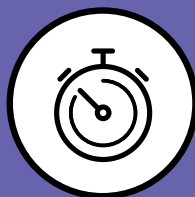
28,024

Active library members



498,489

Library visits



149

Opening hours per week



562,613

Library loans



115,265

eCollection loans



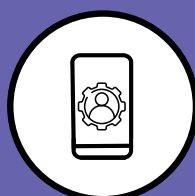
116,402

Information requests



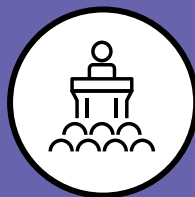
20,094

People attended 915 events and programs



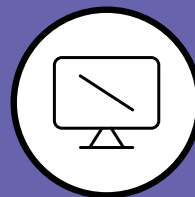
20

Online programs were viewed 1,011 times



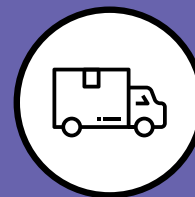
5,395

Groups booked library spaces



20,024

Public computer bookings



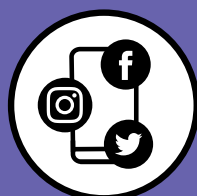
104

People used the Home Library Service



90

Volunteers



125,027

Social Media reach



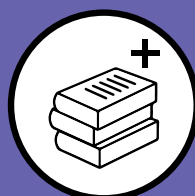
14,679

Newsletter subscribers



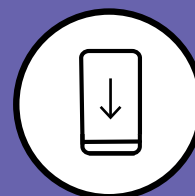
14

Book Clubs engaging 143 members



23,388

New items added to library collections



8,982

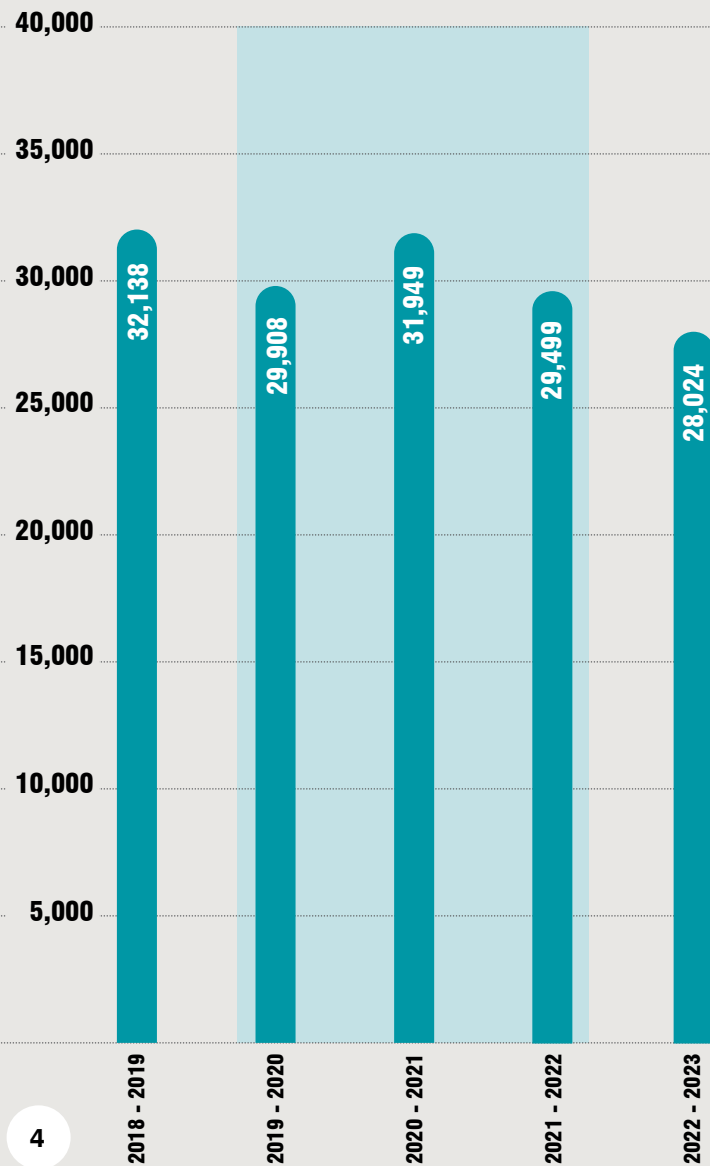
Woollahra Libraries app used on 8,982 devices

Year-on-Year Changes

Please note 2019-2022 statistics impacted by COVID-19

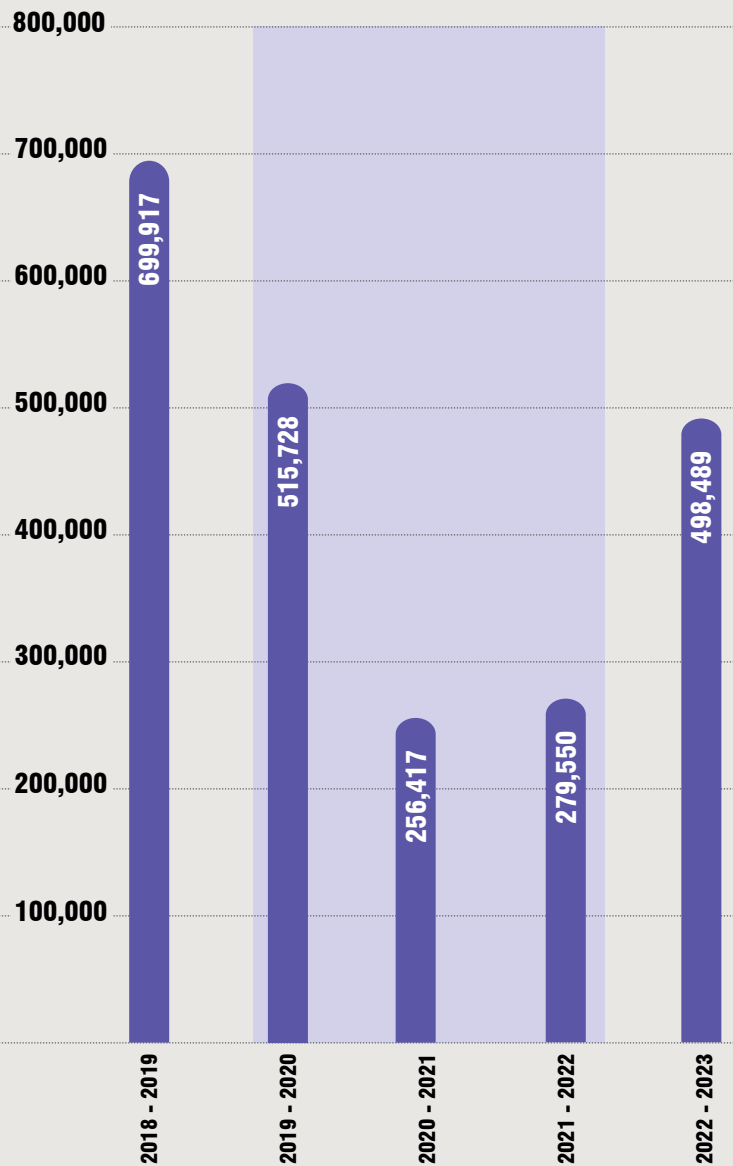
Active Members

2019-2022 statistics impacted by COVID-19



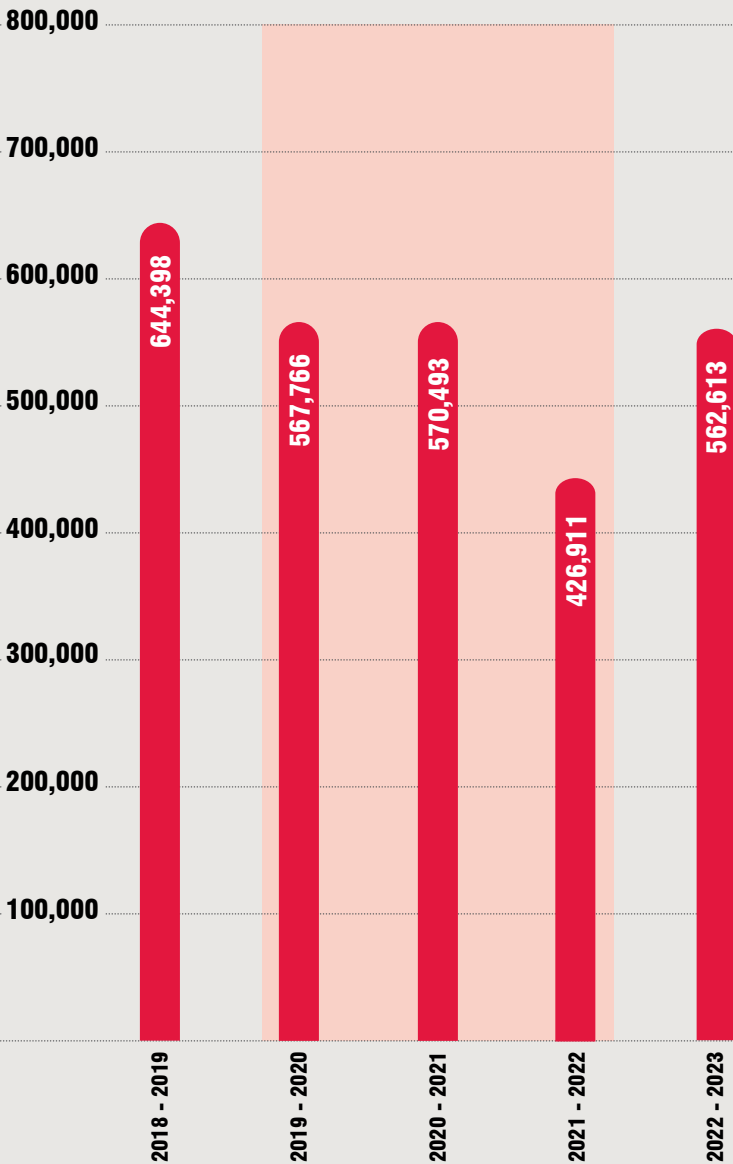
Visitation

2019-2022 statistics impacted by COVID-19



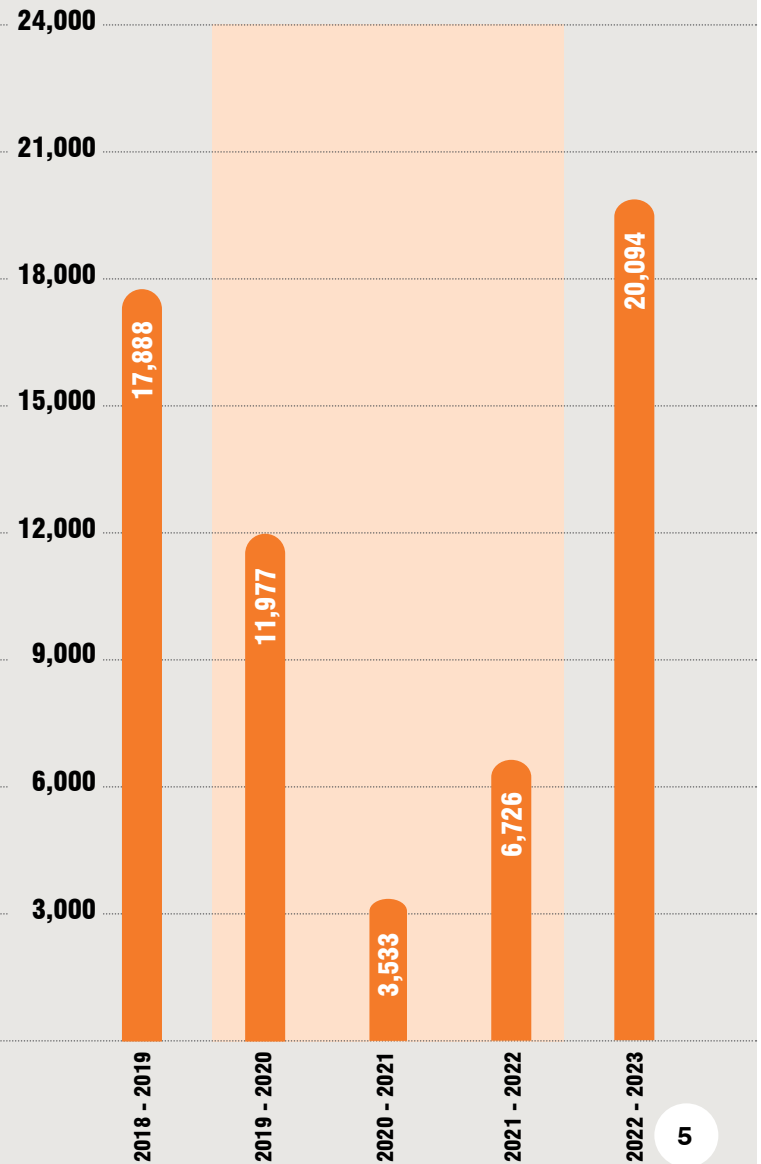
Library Loans

2019-2022 statistics impacted by COVID-19



Attendance at Library Programs and events

2019-2022 statistics impacted by COVID-19





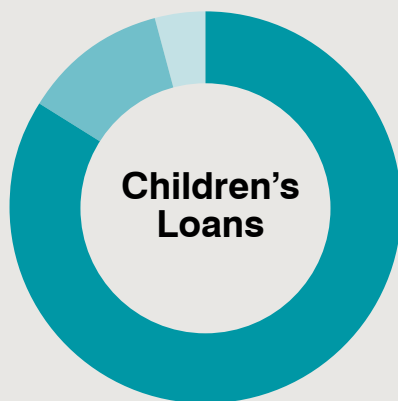
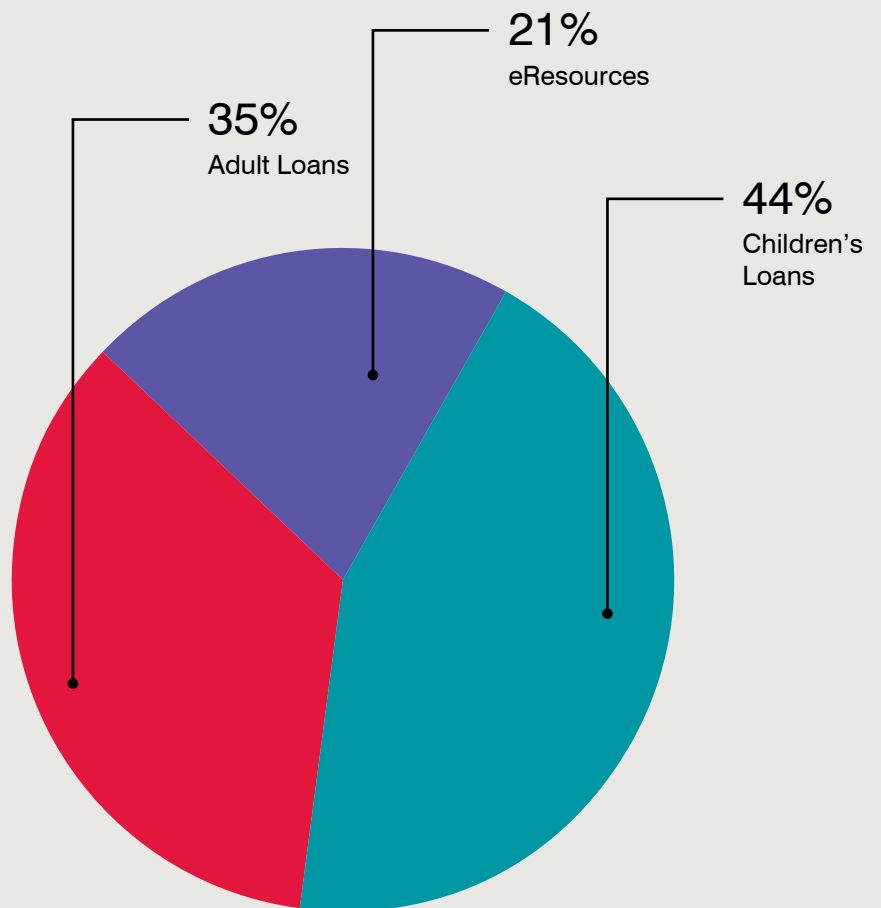
Special guest Joyce Maynge posing with a young attendee after our Sydney WorldPride story time

Library Loans Breakdown

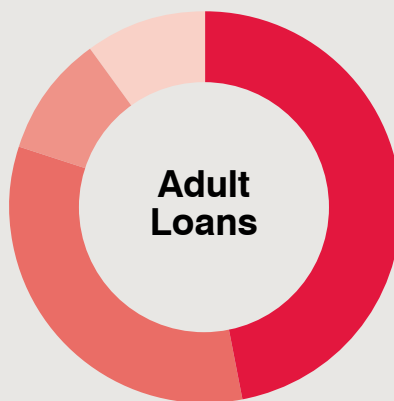
Our loans for the year increased by 32% compared to the same period the previous year, recording 562,613 loans this year compared to 426,911 in 2021/2022. This reflects a growing trend of library customers returning to use the library in person after the impact of COVID-19.

A notable high-performing collection area is the Junior Fiction recording a total of 207,643 loans for the year and 37% of the total circulation.

Another interesting insight into borrowing trends over the past year is the most frequently borrowed items in the collection. The most popular adult title borrowed throughout the year was *Horse* by Geraldine Brooks and the most popular children's title borrowed throughout the year was *The world's worst pets* by David Walliams.



- ▣ 84% Fiction
- ▣ 12% Non-fiction
- ▣ 4% Audio visual



- ▣ 47% Fiction
- ▣ 33% Non-fiction
- ▣ 10% Audio visual
- ▣ 10% Magazines



- ▣ 31% eBooks
- ▣ 29% eAudiobooks
- ▣ 28% eMagazines
- ▣ 12% Others



Parents and young children enjoy exciting sights, sounds, and textures in our Book Babies Sensory Workshop

Events and Programs

Children's programs continue to be our biggest area of delivery. An astounding 15,301 children attended 613 programs this year. Numbers at our weekly Story Times, Rhyme Times, and Book Babies sessions continue to grow and in response, we have added new sessions, including Baby sensory workshops and an extra Book Babies session at Watsons Bay Library.

This year we also expanded our popular after-school programs offering for children with additional Code Club advanced streams. Our Mini Makers program has been popular across all branches with children participating in monthly STEM challenges such as building stands for pumpkins, and making lava lamps and marble runs.

Our school holiday program was well attended this year with fun activities including Indigenous weaving workshops, magic shows, Minecraft challenges, coding games, movie screenings and the popular annual Summer Reading Challenge.

Across 45 programs for youth and young people this year, we saw 682 attendees. Our Youth Week program included opportunities to attend workshops introducing everything from Manga and Macramé to VR art and Natural scent blending. We hosted several HSC Help workshops to help prepare students for the HSC as well as stress buster activations (Table Tennis, Ping Pong and Video games) to support students studying in the library space.

Overall, in 2022-23 we reached 4,111 adults through our public programs. Highlights of the year included:

- Regular technology skills support programs including Tech at Ascham, Tech Connect, Tech Savvy Seniors and 3D printing workshops.
- In-conversation events with authors about their new books including Ann Cleeves, Heather Rose, Alexandra Joel, Belinda Alexandra, Darcy Tindale, Alison Daddo, Tania Blanchard and James O’Loughlin.
- Creative workshops including introduction to crochet, flower arranging and Kokdema.
- Tai Chi and meditation classes.
- Panel events exploring topics including: The Conflict in Ukraine, Mental Health and Resilience, Queer Australia and the Indigenous Voice to Parliament.
- The *We Bleed the Same* photographic exhibition and associated programming exploring racism and prejudice including Holocaust survivor Ernie Friedlander in conversation with the exhibition’s creator and producer Liz Deep-Jones and a yarning circle with Wailwan elder James Michael “Widdy” Welsh.
- An Award Ceremony hosted by Michaela Kalowski celebrating the winners of the 2022 Woollahra Digital Literary Award.

Our partnerships with other cultural institutions were strengthened and expanded this year through programming presented in partnership with Sydney Writers’ Festival, Sydney Fringe Festival, BAD Sydney Crime Writers’ Festival, Word Travels and Sydney WorldPride.

All Programs

2022/2023

	Sessions	Attendance
Children	613	15,301
Young Adult	45	682
Adult	257	4,111
Total	915	20,094

Online Programs

Recorded in 2022/2023

	Videos	Views
Children	6	441
Young Adult	14	570
Total	20	1,011

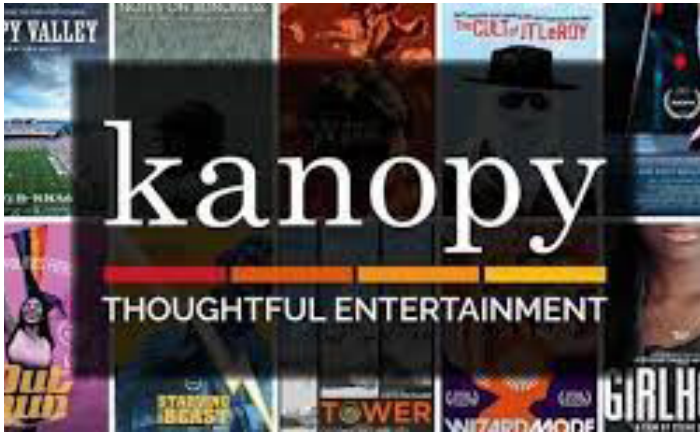
Participants practice Tai Chi in one of our workshops at Paddington Library



Library Highlights



Participants enjoy an evening Pinot and Picasso program, with some library staff attending as well



Kanopy is a streaming platform that is now available with a Woollahra Libraries membership



Woollahra Libraries staff and volunteer with the Spark Truck at the Queen Street Dementia Festival

New Online Resources – British Newspaper Archive and Kanopy

This year we launched two new online services, adding to the expanding collection of eResources currently offered at Woollahra Libraries.

The British Newspaper Archive is a partnership between the British Library and Findmypast to digitise the British Library's vast collection of newspapers. Customers can register for a free account to access millions of pages from a fast-growing range of newspapers from 1603 to present day, from both Britain and further afield. The British Newspaper Archive offers a diverse range of topics and subject areas of interest to researchers, history buffs and genealogists.

We also launched the Kanopy Streaming Service. With their Woollahra Libraries membership, customers now have free access to an extensive collection of over 30,000 film titles, including critically acclaimed movies, inspiring documentaries, award-winning foreign films, classic cinema, TV series, educational courses and kids' content. With new curated content added each week, Kanopy has something for film buffs of all ages.

Spark Truck Out and About

Woollahra, Randwick, and Waverley Libraries share a Library Outreach Truck, affectionately known as Spark, that brings our libraries into the community and includes books, technology, craft and games. This year, we took Spark on several outings to bring library services to the community outside of our library buildings.

In April we teamed up with Randwick and Waverley Councils to run 'Libraries in the Park'. Four hundred people visited Centennial Park to join us for story times, singing, dancing, craft activities and games (including a toddler roller coaster!).

Woollahra Libraries also took Spark to Cooper Park Community Garden Open Day for a special Bellevue Hill 2023 Celebration, German Cultural Day at the Goethe Institute, Glenmore Road Public School for their 140th Birthday Celebration and Queen Street Dementia Festival.

Library staff enjoyed being out and about, making new connections in the community, soliciting valuable feedback on our programs, and promoting reading and literacy. For example, at Queen Street Dementia Festival we showcased our 'memory kit' prototype. At German Cultural Day, we promoted our language learning collections and resources while at schools, we took the opportunity to promote our school-age programming and resources.

Outreach helps us build awareness and share information about programs, resources and services with people in the community.



Cati Gabor has been volunteering with Woollahra Libraries for 10 years



Volunteer Martin Fell monitoring the slide

Woollahra Libraries Volunteer Program

The Woollahra Libraries Volunteer Program fosters wellbeing, diversity, inclusion, and community connectedness.

Our team of more than 90 volunteers enables us to successfully deliver our numerous programs and events, as well as Home Library and JP services. Volunteers also provide the community with IT support and even supervise the slippery slide at Woollahra Library at Double Bay.

Those interested in our local history work can support the team with document transcription and digitisation. We also offer volunteering opportunities for students completing the Duke of Edinburgh's Award program.

In the 2022/2023 financial year, library volunteers contributed more than 2500 hours of work.

This year we had an overwhelming increase in applicants, with 35 new volunteers joining our team!

Volunteers are an integral part of the library and make a significant contribution to our library service. They are acknowledged and celebrated for their contributions throughout the year at various events, like end-of-year and National Volunteer Week celebrations, as well as in quarterly meetings.

“Volunteering is a wonderful way to connect with people, as well as a lovely way to connect with the library and the amazing staff there. Volunteering feels like a very small way to give back to the community.”

– Volunteer Jocelyn Walker

“I feel very privileged to be involved with such a great organisation.”

– Volunteer Colleen Jagusch

“I love volunteering. Volunteering creates a supportive environment where we encourage each other's growth and development, both personally and as a team.”

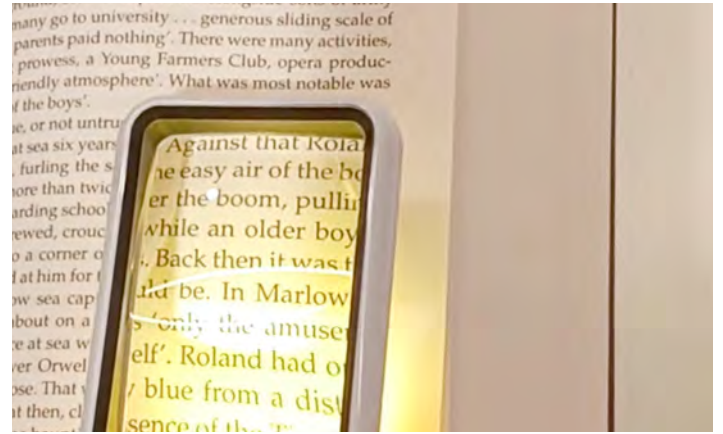
– New volunteer Stella Zhang

If you love libraries, people or events and are looking for work experience, or simply wish to give back to the community, consider volunteering with us!

To find out more visit:
woollahra.nsw.gov.au/library/volunteer



Our Crystal Village STEM kit helps young children learn about colours, shapes, and early mathematic concepts



Our LED handheld magnifiers help to convert standard edition books to large print

Launch of New Collection: STEM Kits

In March of 2023, the Library launched a new collection of STEM Kits for children. STEM Kits are designed to provide access to interactive material to further education in the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. In the Woollahra Libraries Strategic Plan 2021-2026, a shortage of STEM skills was identified as an emerging trend impacting public libraries in the 21st century.

The new kits offer a wide range of activities for children to learn science and technology in a fun and engaging way – from programming small robots, coding their own computer games and conducting simple science experiments. The collection has been very popular; most of the kits were loaned out within the first few days of the launch and are still in high demand.

“My girls are 2 and 4 years old. They are so excited that they can now borrow ‘toys’ (STEM kits) from the library as well as books. Recently we borrowed the Code and Go Bumblebee. It was so much fun watching the girls struggle to figure out how to use it - little did they know they were actually learning to code! As a parent it’s so wonderful to have a curated collection of high quality educational toys available to borrow from the library for free!”

– Sarah, library member

Home Library Service Accessibility Equipment

The Home Library Service has a range of accessibility equipment available for the 100+ HLS members to loan.

For members with low or impaired vision who enjoy listening to Audiobooks, we are able to offer Envoy devices or iPads. Envoys are purchased from Vision Australia and loaded with a personalised selection of (usually 10) eAudio titles each month. The Envoys are popular as they are lightweight, portable and very easy to use.

For members who enjoy reading print but struggle with regular-sized fonts, we are able to issue iPads with pre-loaded eBooks, because the font size can easily be increased. The iPads are able to be pre-loaded with up to ten eAudio titles from BorrowBox and Libby.

Another option for members who enjoy reading print books is the LED lit handheld magnifier. We have purchased two of the Eschenbach Mobilux 3.5x LED Magnifiers. The LED bulb provides a white light however this can be softened by adding a blue or yellow filter.

These technologies offer a range of solutions for those with accessibility requirements to enjoy library offerings to the fullest!



The new dual extruder 3d printer in use



Local history exhibition for Bellevue Hill 2023 at Woollahra Council Customer Service

Technology upgrade

Woollahra Libraries have successfully implemented a range of technology enhancements, including new public computers, printers, library catalogues, a dual extruder 3D printer, and a modern 3D scanner. These upgrades have transformed our customer's experience, offering cutting-edge resources and fostering a culture of innovation within our community.

Upgrading our public computers, library catalogues and printers has provided library users with faster, more efficient access to information and enabled them to carry out tasks with ease. The new computers are equipped with state-of-the-art hardware and software, providing faster speeds and improved functionality. Additionally, the installation of new public printers streamlined printing processes and allowed customers to use intuitive touch screens to release their print jobs.

The implementation of a new dual extruder 3D printer and 3D scanner facilitates lifelong learning and making by the community. Customers now have the opportunity to unleash their creativity by transforming digital designs into colourful tangible objects. To complement this technology, new advanced level 3D printing workshops were introduced allowing the community to explore 3D printing applications in jewellery, architecture and more.

Woollahra Libraries Celebrate Bellevue Hill 2023

The postcode of Bellevue Hill in Woollahra is 2023, so to mark the year, we're celebrating everything about this wonderful neighbourhood! From the history, the people and the businesses, to the leafy streets and the wild beauty of Cooper Park, there are many aspects of Bellevue Hill that Woollahra Libraries are helping to uplift.

First, a local history exhibition was installed at Woollahra Council's customer service centre in late February 2023. The exhibition included 15 historic photos dating back to the early 1900s, as well as initial subdivision sale advertising material for the community. From the natural wonder of the place to the infrastructure, houses, and residents themselves through the years, the exhibition serves as a wonderful look at the community.

On 26 March, we celebrated Bellevue Hill in person by bringing the Library to the Community Garden open day in Cooper Park. We had the library outreach Spark Truck on site for garden-themed story time and craft, while local history staff members led a 2-hour guided walking tour along a route designed to explore the history of the south-western edge of the suburb. The tour began on the heights where Bellevue and Victoria Roads converge, and finished at the foot of the Double Bay gully in Lower Cooper Park. For those unable to attend the walking tour in person, we also developed a fast facts history video of Cooper Park.

We have been excited to take part in such wonderful activities for one of Woollahra's beautiful historic suburbs!



Live music and poetry readings enjoyed picnic-style in the Sapphic Literary Lounge



Jason Om, Fiona Kelly McGregor, Michaela Kalowski, William Yang, Cadence Bell and Cr Price at Ideas Exchange event

Woollahra Libraries Celebrates Sydney World Pride

Woollahra Libraries was proud to host a series of events, workshops, exhibitions and game nights to help celebrate and support the LGBTQI+ community during the Sydney World Pride Festival.

Paddington Library hosted an exhibition of photographs by Sydney artist Liam Benson as well as a fascinating talk with Vice President of the Pride History Group, Scott McKinnon, who spoke about Paddington's extensive Pride History.

At Watsons Bay Library, Liz-Duck Chong hosted the Sapphic Literary Lounge, which included live music, literary mocktails and poetry readings from queer authors Tricia Dearborn, Erin Gough, Kate Lilley, Emily Stewart and Tanya Vavilova.

At Double Bay Library, a panel discussion moderated by journalist and author Jason Om, including photographer William Yang, writer/artist Fiona Kelly McGregor and writer/filmmaker Cadance Bell, invited audiences to reflect on and celebrated the rich life of Sydney's queer community across three generations.

For young adults, the library hosted self-portrait and collage workshops and board game nights across all our library branches. The library also held a special Story Time and craft session for children with storyteller and Librarian, Joyce Maynge.

World Pride was the perfect opportunity to launch our Pride Book Club. This book club runs monthly at Paddington Library and participants discuss stories from gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, intersex, asexual and queer voices, exploring aspects of their identities and experiences.

To promote the importance of diversity and inclusion, and to brighten up our space we installed rainbow stair decals, which are still proudly on display with the message 'Everyone Welcome'.

"The library staff got together, it was a real star-studded cast. I really commend the library staff for finding such high-caliber people to be on that panel. I note that Fiona Kelly McGregor has just been nominated for the Stella Prize for literature so I really think that it was a real coup in having her there and Cadence Bell, her book *The All of It: A Bogan Rhapsody*, I'm actually reading at the moment and it's hugely entertaining and a fantastic insight into a transwoman and her life. So I just thank everybody for a wonderful evening and it was very much well-enjoyed so thank you."

– Cr Price, Ideas Exchange

"I wanted to compliment and congratulate staff on the event - which was a slice of heaven. Fantastic programme, divine location, excellent food and non-alcoholic delicious drinks. I was so proud to be there and grateful to everyone involved for their outstanding work. Attendees were impressed to see the level of Council commitment to the event by my and Councillor Harriet Price's attendance. Well done to all involved."

– Cr Elsing, Sapphic Literary Lounge



The new catalogue search shows readers recommended books and nearby books on the shelf



Our Summer Reading Club winner at Watsons Bay Library

New Library System

After selecting Libero Cloud as our preferred library management system, we migrated from our previous on-premise solution to the modern cloud version. The upgraded system offers our customers a new intuitive member portal where they can see their loans at a glance, view their borrowing history, and reserve or review books – all from a clean and mobile friendly screen.

Catalogue records for books are now enriched with book summaries and information about the author; books in the same series are now displayed in order of publication, and members are offered suggestions of similar titles and similar authors. Reader reviews and awards won by the book are also available, as well as the ability to browse the shelf online. All of these features are transforming the catalogue into a useful tool for discovering new titles and authors.

A new relevance-focused search function helps customers to find exactly what they are looking for without the need to scroll through dozens of search results. Another new feature of the cloud system is eLibrary, which allows customers to discover eBooks and eAudiobooks from BorrowBox, Overdrive and Indyreads platforms from one convenient search page.

Behind the scenes, the cloud system is offering regular automatic upgrades which streamlines maintenance and ensures that the most up to date version of the product is always available to library staff and customers.

Summer Reading Challenge 2022/23

Over the summer school holidays, Woollahra Library hosted the annual Summer Reading Challenge for children. This year children were encouraged to read books under the banner of 'Build a Better World'. For every 10 books read over the summer school holidays, participants were encouraged to come to the library to show off their reading achievements. Children were able to enter the major prize draw to win a book gift voucher from the program's generous sponsor, Woollahra Bookshops.

For the first time this year, participants could log their reading history digitally using the Beanstack app. This intuitive app encourages kids to earn digital badges tied to achieving reading milestones which makes tracking reading progress a fun activity. The children used this app to log their reading online. Once eligible for a prize they were encouraged to visit the library to be congratulated by library staff and receive small prizes.

Participants read an astonishing 2,518 books over the period!

When it comes to reading, we know that more practice means better recognition of sight words, phonological awareness, and general comprehension. The Summer Reading Challenge is one of the many ways Woollahra Libraries promotes the joy of reading.

Well done young readers!



Home Library Service members enjoyed tea and live entertainment



Woollahra preschool class members serenade morning tea attendees

Seniors Festive Season Morning Tea

The Home Library Service and Bus to Books members were invited to a morning tea to celebrate the Festive Season after two years' hiatus due to Covid-19 cancellations.

We wanted to celebrate with the elderly members of our Woollahra community by enjoying some great music and morning tea and talking about books. To make it an accessible event, a Holdsworth Community bus was organised for transportation, and the members were invited to bring a friend or family member to help them make their way to the Library.

Local Watsons Bay resident Serge Stanley (and the All Stars) set the scene with some live music as everyone took their seats. Guests were then welcomed by Library Manager Jody Rodas, and Susan Darcy from the Collections Team started the morning with a look at the most popular titles of the year, and a presentation of new upcoming titles that we can look forward to reading. Guests were given a list of these titles for upcoming deliveries and Bus to Books visits.

We then had a visit from two classes at Woollahra Pre-school. This was met with many smiles as they sang us a medley of well-known Festive and Australian songs. They performed brilliantly and many guests suggested that this was a highlight of the morning.

The pre-school children then enjoyed a special storytime by Children's Librarian Michelle Plant. The wonderful Library volunteers then offered food and tea/coffee to the guests, whilst Serge entertained us with more music which created a warm atmosphere.

It was a lovely morning of connections for young and old, and an opportunity for people to come together after extended periods of isolation.

“The older class from the Woollahra Pre-School was full of self-confidence performing.”

“This was a very good program, it's wonderful that the council is running it. The children singing was a highlight. The most popular reads [presentation] was very handy; I based my Christmas shopping around it.”

“Children were so gorgeous and self-assured.”

“I thought the whole thing was lovely”

“I'm used to using Holdsworth for transport and see it as part of the experience. I take the Holdsworth bus everywhere but this is my favourite outing.”

– Morning tea attendees



Dalia Feldheim's Small Business Month talk "Dare to Lead Like a Girl"



A library member uses the quiet pod in Double Bay

Connect for Success - Small Business Month 2022

November was Small Business Month and Woollahra libraries hosted events to support local business people. This year our programs focused on skills development and facilitating connections between small business owners in our local community. The library hosted two online webinars in partnership with Service NSW. 'Service NSW for Business' and 'One on One, No Cost Business Advice' showcased services designed to support business owners' access to information, advisory and financial support from the NSW Government. In addition, Woollahra Library at Double Bay hosted a speech by the founder of Flow Leadership Consultancy and author of *Dare to Lead Like a Girl: How to Survive and Thrive in the Corporate Jungle*, Dalia Feldheim. Dalia spoke about fostering resilience and modern leadership. Feedback from the community was positive. Respondents to our post-event surveys described these events as 'inspiring', 'practical', 'engaging', and 'interesting'. Attendees enjoyed 'listening to the author and meeting other people'.

Quotes from the Dalia Feldheim event in response to: "What did you enjoy most about this event?"

"The speaker - inspiring and engaging. The location and room excellent too."

"Listening to the author and meeting other people who came to listen."

"Meeting the other attendees; hearing about Dalia's experiences."

Soundproof Booths

With changes in working conditions in recent years, including working from home, flexible working hours and an increase in remote work, more people are relying on our libraries as a working space. We have met the increased demand for private, soundproofed spaces for customers to have online meetings and phone calls by installing new soundproof booths at Woollahra Library at Double Bay and Paddington Library.

Woollahra Libraries received funding from State Library NSW through a Local Priority Grant in 2021-22. We worked with supplier Envoy in 2022 to install a 2 person booth at Woollahra Library at Double Bay and a 4 person booth at Paddington Library and these booths have been available to be booked by library members since November 2022.

"I needed to be in the area for something else and had a private telehealth appointment to take. The soundproof booth was easy to book in advance, and super intuitive to use for my video call with a regular laptop."

– Christine, library member



Host Michaela Kalowski and judges Ali Whitelock, Vanessa Berry and Brett Osmond at the 2022 DLA Awards Ceremony



Non-fiction judge Vanessa Berry with winners Lucia Tường Vy Nguyễn & Reina Brigette Takeuchi

2022 Woollahra Digital Literary Award

Australian Authors were recognised for outstanding digital writing at an awards event for the Woollahra Digital Literary Award on 22 November. This was the first in-person ceremony after two years of online events for the Covid-19 shutdown, and it was presided over by Councillor Mary-Lou Jarvis and hosted by ABC presenter Michaela Kalowski.

Now in its sixth year, the national literary award was founded by Woollahra Council to support innovation in Australian literature and celebrate the work of local writers in a growing field, evidenced by the fact that 21% of all loans from Woollahra Libraries are now digital.

Award judges Julie Janson (Fiction), Vanessa Berry (Non-Fiction), Ali Whitelock (Poetry) and Brett Osmond (Digital Innovation) selected the winners from a shortlist of 19 works, chosen from a field of 117 entries.

A total of \$7,500 was awarded to winners across the four categories, with an additional \$250 prize for the reader's choice selected from the shortlist:

Fiction: Deniz Agraz, *The Golden Bracelet*, Meniscus Literary Journal

Non-Fiction: Lucia Tường Vy Nguyễn & Reina Brigette Takeuchi, *Not Your Miss or Madame: A Three-Act Meditation on Love, Opera and Friendship*, Going Down Swinging

Poetry: Caroline Reid, *A Poem To My Mother That She Will Never Read*, Mslexia

Digital Innovation: Rae White, *Stand Up*, Backslash Lit

Readers' Choice: Cher Tan, *By Signalling Nothing I Remain Opaque*, disorganizing

“The digital field is so interesting because with all of our screens and the ways that technology is changing publishing and reading, the goal posts also keep changing, and we are now seeing this in the way authors are writing and the mediums they are utilising,”

– Library Experience Coordinator Jenn Martin



Book Week 2022 decorations inspired by “Amira’s Suitcase”



Staff and children dressed up for book week storytime

Celebrating Book Week 2022

After two years of coordinating online-only Children’s Book Council Australia (CBCA) Book Week programs, we were thrilled to celebrate 2022’s theme, ‘Dreaming with Eyes Open’ with a mix of in-person and virtual programs and an array of interactive installations and activities!

The artwork for 2022’s theme was illustrated by Jasmine Seymour, and it reminded us that we can dream through the power of books! Our online storytimes spanned three days, and featured select CBCA shortlisted titles around ‘Water Dreaming’, ‘Family Dreaming’ and ‘Garden Dreaming’. 222 people attended these sessions. We also had six in-person storytime sessions across our three branches, attended by 64 children. Many came in costume, and our library staff got ready to dream by sporting their pyjamas.

Throughout the week, Woollahra Library at Double Bay displayed a giant hanging bathtub full of animals (for *When the Waterhole Dries Up* by Kaye Baillie and Max Hamilton), as well as shelves topped with suitcases full of flowers and herbs (for *Amira’s Suitcase*, by Vikki Conley and Nicky Johnston). The children loved that each library had a robotic cat for the public to engage with (for *Winston and the Indoor Cat* by Leila Rudge).

We also shared a promotional video for *What Do You Call Your Grandma* (by Ashleigh Barton and Martina Heiduczek), which features local children answering the titular question. A craft setup in each library invited kids to draw portraits of their grandmothers, with more than 100 participating. Visitors to the libraries could also count the hidden cat cutouts in a guessing game, and those at home could view the Paddington Community Garden scavenger hunt video listing 5 plants and animals to win a lollypop.

It was a brilliant, bustling week of fun for our young community members, and we were so glad to lead them through these themed celebrations.



Library collections staff opening boxes of Bioguard 80 covered books

Bioguard 80 Book Covering Launch

Woollahra Libraries are committed to working towards a more sustainable future by promoting initiatives that increase recycling and minimise waste. Working in partnership with book supplier James Bennett and book covering specialists Raeco, our library service became the first public library in New South Wales to use the world's first fully biodegradable book covering on our paperback books. Bioguard 80 contains an active biodegradable ingredient that enables books to fully break down when placed in the right compostable environment without leaving microplastics.

Covering library paperbacks with Bioguard 80 will not only increase the longevity of the collection but also provide a sustainable solution when discarded items are recycled. As we purchase over 20,000 mostly paperback items per year, we are thrilled to be using this product on our library material, and excited to see how the community responds to this move towards a more sustainable library service.



Panellists in conversation at our Ideas Exchange: Understanding the Conflict in Ukraine

Woollahra Libraries Show Support for Ukraine

On 24 February 2022, Russia invaded Ukraine in a major escalation of the Russo-Ukrainian War, which began in 2014. The invasion has caused tens of thousands of deaths on both sides and instigated Europe's largest refugee crisis since World War II.

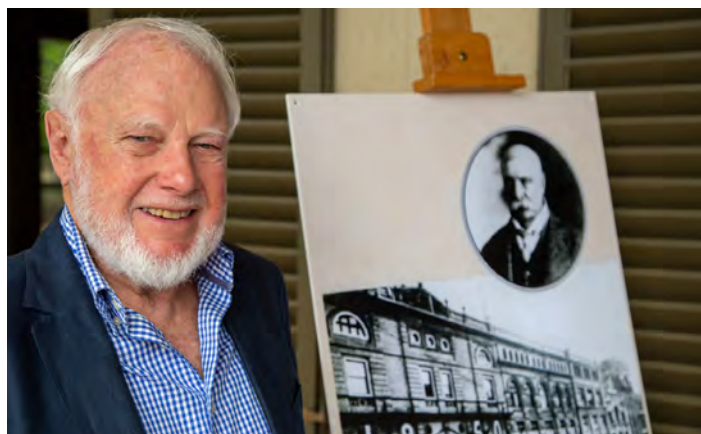
Woollahra Council stood behind Ukraine and formally condemned the invasion, undertaking a number of initiatives to show support. The libraries participated through two key initiatives: hosting a panel discussion to unpack some of the underpinnings of the war itself, and acquiring a selection of Ukrainian Language Books for our Community Languages collection.

We held an Ideas Exchange: *Understanding the Conflict in Ukraine* at Woollahra Library Double Bay on Thursday 21 July 2022. Our panel, moderated by Michaela Kalowski, looked at the geopolitical factors at play and uncovered some of the historical, cultural and political dimensions of the crisis. Speakers included Emily Clark, a journalist with ABC International who has covered the invasion on the ground, Justin Hastings, a Professor of International Politics at the University of Sydney, and Dr Sonia Mycak, Ukrainian Studies Foundation in Australia Research Fellow, ANU Centre for European Studies.

In 2022, more than 4,000 Ukrainian refugees arrived in Australia. Many found temporary homes in Sydney, and we wanted to provide reading material for any who visited Woollahra Libraries. In March and July, we received a selection of Adult and Children's books from the State Library of New South Wales to be temporarily added to our Community Languages shelves.



Professor Stephen Garton AM, Mayor Susan Wynne, and nominator Graham Humphery at unveiling of plaque to Sir Mungo MacCallum



Phil Westlake at the unveiling of a plaque to Frederic Lassetter

Plaque Unveillings for 2022-2023

Five plaques were added to the streets of the municipality during the past twelve months, placed under the Woollahra Council Plaque Scheme to commemorate exceptional people of the area. Each year nominations for plaque subjects are invited from the community.

The scheme continues to reflect the breadth of contribution by Woollahra residents to Australia's history, highlighting most recently the life and work of two foundational academics of the University of Sydney, a much-loved figure of the Australian stage, a giant of Sydney's retail world and the creator of an iconic character of Australian popular fiction. This has been a year of Point Piper plaque unveilings, with four of the five plaques marking former residents of the suburb.

Sir Alexander MacCormick KCMG (1856-1931): an outstanding surgeon, an academic in the formative years of the University of Sydney's Medical School, and the founder of Paddington's Scottish Hospital.

Plaque installed 29 July 2022
6 Wentworth Street, Point Piper

Frederic Lassetter (1828-1911): a man revered for his mercantile achievements and admired for his principled stance as an employer. Lassetter lived at Redleaf (now the WMC chambers) from 1889 until his death, and in 1897 built St Brigid's (today's Woollahra Gallery).

Plaque Installed 26 September 2022
536 New South Head Road, Double Bay.

Eleanor Towzey (Nellie) Stewart (1858-1931): a Sydney-born actor and singer. Stewart's compelling stage presence, coupled with her voice, beauty and acting ability delivered her a long career and international success.

Plaque installed 31 October 2022
23 Wunulla Road "Den-o-Gwynne", Point Piper

Sir Mungo William MacCallum KCMG (1856-1947): an academic and administrator who served the University of Sydney for some fifty years. During his tenure, MacCallum held the positions of Vice-Chancellor, Deputy Chancellor and Chancellor.

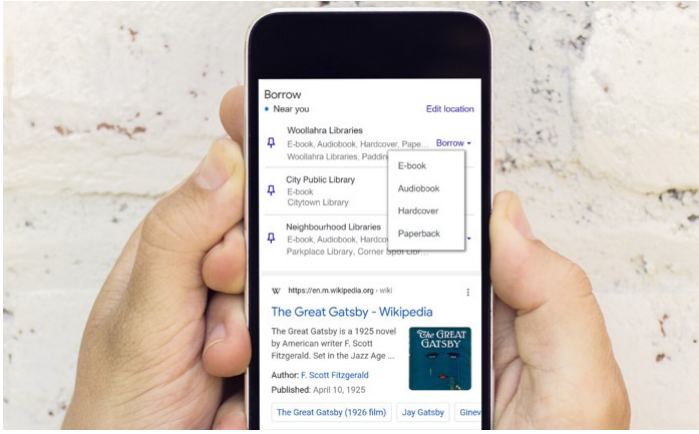
Plaque installed 28 February 2023
11 Wyuna Road "Bryn-y-mor", Point Piper
(This was the 40th plaque in the scheme.)

James Charles Bancks (1889-1952): the gifted cartoonist behind Ginger Meggs, an eternal ten-year-old lad who became one of the best-known characters of Australian popular culture. The cartoon adventures of Ginger and his mates became the longest-running comic strip in Australian history.

Plaque Installed 28 April 2023 (rear of property)
24 Wyuna Road, Point Piper

Would you like to nominate for the Woollahra Council Plaque Scheme? This program honours exceptional people or events associated with our local government area, that have made a significant impact on life in the area or Australia as a nation

woollahra.nsw.gov.au/library/local_history



View of the Bibliograph google search results on mobile

Customers Discover Woollahra holdings in Google

In July 2022 Woollahra Libraries launched the Bibliograph Service. This service gets our catalogue data into the Google knowledge panel which attracts customers to the library. When locals search Google for a book, direct links to our catalogue are provided for both hard copy and online holdings. In the first year, 12,988 clicks to the library catalogue were received from Google.

Bibliograph offers access to pre-made lists of award-winning books and other curated lists. A visual display can be created from any list and placed on the web or social media, providing links to the Woollahra Libraries catalogue. For example, the library created a book carousel featuring the books shortlisted for the 2022 Children's Book Council Australia Book of the Year Awards and embedded it on our website.

Implementing this service helped the library to improve the discoverability of our collection. We undertook bespoke work with our library management system provider to ensure we could take advantage of the service, and were one of the first libraries in Australia to do so.



Woollahra Libraries

Double Bay

451 New South
Head Road
9391 7100

Paddington

Town Hall
247 Oxford Street
9391 7988

Watsons Bay

8 Marine Parade
9391 7999

woollahra.nsw.gov.au/library

